

proceedings/ <sup>1</sup> Macaulay's narrative faithfully reflects the passions of the time, but he does not perceive the significance of Torrington's acquittal by a body of competent naval officers, and accepts the popular verdict too implicitly. This is not a case in which the discovery of new evidence has invalidated Macaulay's views, but one in which he interpreted the evidence wrongly.

Macaulay's account of the battle of La Hogue is not open to the same criticism. The facts were well ascertained and there was no controversy about their meaning. The aim of the French was to obtain the mastery of the Channel and land an army of twenty thousand men in England. But the English fleet was ready and was concentrated by the middle of May, and when the Dutch joined it Russell found himself in command of ninety-nine ships of the line besides smaller vessels. Tourville, on the other hand, could not collect more than forty-five ; twelve ships under cTBstrees which ought to have joined him from Toulon were retarded by a storm, and twenty more were kept in Brest for want of men. Forced by the orders of his government to put to sea without them and to fight a force so vastly superior to his own, he was defeated on May 29 off Barfleur and in the running fight which followed, fifteen of his ships were burnt, three at Cherbourg and twelve at La Hogue.<sup>2</sup> There was great

grumbling in  
England because Russell did not also destroy  
the twenty

<sup>1</sup> Sir Cyprian Bridge, *Sea Power and Other Studies*  
(1910), pp. 47-51 ;  
J. R. Thursfield, *Naval Warfare* (1913), pp. 31-48 ; J- S.  
Corbett, *Some Principles of Maritime Strategy* (1911), pp. 215-26.

- For accounts of the battle see Burchett, pp. 128-50 ;  
Colomb, *Naval Warfare*, pp. 123-30; and Sir John Laughton's article in  
the *Quarterly Review* for Apr. 1893. The fullest French account is *La Bataille de la Hougue*, by G. Toudouze (1899) ; Ranke (v. 45-51} writes a longer account than he usually devotes to battles. Macaulay (chap, xviii) rather under-states the numbers of Russell's fleet.